

Boston Dec. 4/76

Wm Lloyd Garrison

Dear Sir.

Please to

54  
pardon me - an unknown friend -  
for this liberty I take in ad-  
dressing you, only to say  
how much I thank you for  
your "open letter" of this morning  
to Rev. Jas Freeman Clark, and  
its criticism of his sermon  
or talk of Thanks giving day.

I know of no one who could  
so appropriately perform this  
delicate, yet much needed  
work of a just friendship, or  
whose judgement in the case  
should <sup>so</sup> command his earnest  
and most respectful thoughts



Like yourself. I listened to that  
 discourse, as I am accustomed  
 to on all similar occasions, &  
 frequently to his Sunday ministrations -  
 and I may say that it is about  
 the first time that I ever heard  
 Mr Clarke so far depart from  
 fairness in his statement of a  
 case, as to stir my heart to  
 active rebellion towards him or  
 his conclusions - indeed I am  
 accustomed to think him one of  
 the fairest of speakers and usually  
 "about right" - but I sat in simple  
 amazement, as the discourse near  
 on towards its close, with only  
 one side stated; and that, as it  
 seemed to me, in a very strained &  
 extravagant form. I kept saying  
 to myself, it is not possible Mr  
 Clark can close without telling us  
 how terrible a thing it would be for



a political party to conquer an  
Election. This Centennial year of the  
Republic, by stupendous frauds  
upon the ballot - destroying the  
freedom of the franchise in whole  
Sections and even States. & that,  
by methods at which savages  
ought to blush with shame.

And yet he did close with hardly  
a hint that such a thing was sus-  
pective - leaving one to judge, from his  
remarks, that the first villainy, of  
destroying a freeman's right to vote,  
was far less, than, that the unright-  
eous total of votes cast, should not  
be correctly counted. Of course  
Mr C. holds no such idea. but his  
intense desire to be just, against his  
own party, led him to state the  
case so loosely and unfairly as to  
give great advantage to the party  
which is now straining every nerve



to carry the public mind. by  
mendacious lying. threat & bluster;  
and like no better assistance than  
that of such men as Mr Clark.

This it was that gave me such  
pain, and almost indignation.  
that, had I been accustomed to speak  
in public. I fear I should have  
arisen and uttered a protest on  
the spot. Why cannot Mr Clark  
see the use <sup>made</sup> of his discourse by ~~those~~  
whom he certainly cannot wish to  
assist - as well as by that "respecta-  
ble" class of trimmers who dignify  
their indifference to justice with  
high-sounding phrase of public  
honour. such <sup>however</sup> as does not hesitate to  
advise an Elector. to vote contrary  
to the instructions of his Constituency  
lest the out-voted party, make trouble?

Pardon this hasty scribble & again  
renew my thanks for your elegant  
statement in your inexpressible letter.

With great respect. W. J. P. Butler